

REMARKS

The Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 12-16. The Applicant has added new claims 34-40 and respectfully requests that these claims be examined. New claims 37 and 38 depend from allowed claims and are also in allowable condition.

The Applicant also respectfully requests the Examiner to enter amended drawing sheets for Figs. 2 and 7 where angle 73 is incorrectly drawn. The specification defines the cantilever angle 73 as being measured along a reference line that is tangent to the body plies in the cantilever portion. Figs. 2 and 7 are thus incorrectly drawn and have been corrected in the enclosed red line drawings.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, and 17 as being anticipated by EP 0881105 to Peda. The Applicant believes that EP 0881105 is an equivalent disclosure to US 6,044,884 which was discussed in Amendment A in response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2001. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The Peda references fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a non-collapsing runflat tire. Independent claim 1 recites that the sidewall inserts support the sidewall in an uncollapsed runflat operating condition with the sidewall inserts being fabricated from a high modulus material. The Peda references disclose a tire that is designed to collapse on itself as depicted in Fig. 2 to help prevent the bead rings from unseating from the rim during a zero pressure operating condition. Peda thus does not anticipate claim 1.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's suggestion to amend the claim to require that the sidewall inserts are disposed axially inward of each of the at least one body ply. The Applicant notes that claim 1, lines 6 and 7, already recites that the sidewall inserts are disposed axially inward of the at least one body ply. The amendment suggested by the Examiner is thus unnecessary. In view of the fact that Peda discloses and teaches a tire construction opposite of that recited in independent claim 1 and described in Applicant's specification, the Applicant respectfully requests the rejection to be withdrawn.

The Applicant also respectfully requests the reentry of claims 2-6 which have been withdrawn. Claims 2-6 depend from independent claim 1. The Applicant submits that claims 2-6 are also in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9, 11, 17-20, 32, and 33 as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious in view of US 4,193,437 to Powell. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The Applicant respectfully submits that Powell fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a cantilever tire having a sidewall with a cantilever portion. The Applicant has carefully reviewed the Powell disclosure and finds no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion of a cantilevered sidewall. The goal of the Powell disclosure is to provide a sidewall composition that will not discolor the white sidewall of the tire. Powell has no disclosure or teachings related to the configuration of the tire sidewall.

In support of the rejection, the Examiner relies on his own interpretation of Figure 1 where he has measured an angle of a portion of the body ply. The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's interpretation of the drawing cannot support the anticipation rejection. Patent drawings do not define the precise proportions of the elements and may not be relied on to show particular sizes if the specification is completely silent on the issue. *Hockerson-Halberstadt, Inc. v. Avia Group Int'l, Inc.*, 55 USPQ 2d 1487, 1491 (Fed. Cir. 2000). *See In re Wright*, 569 F.2d 1124, 1127, 193 USPQ 332, 335 (CCPA 1977) ("Absent any written description in the specification of quantitative values, arguments based on measurement of a drawing are of little value."). *See* MPEP § 2125, **PROPORTIONS OF FEATURES IN A DRAWING ARE NOT EVIDENCE OF ACTUAL PROPORTIONS WHEN DRAWINGS ARE NOT TO SCALE**, Rev. 1, Feb. 2003. Powell does not indicate that its drawings are to scale. The measurement noted by the Examiner is thus irrelevant unless tied to material in the written disclosure that specifically teaches the angle of the body cords. The Applicant submits that no such material exists and that the rejection should be withdrawn. The Examiner is also respectfully directed to CFR § 1.84(k) where scale drawings are discouraged. 37 CFR § 1.84 encourages the Applicant to provide exaggeration

in the drawings to show the mechanism of the invention without crowding the drawing. The Applicant thus submits that the Powell drawing, taken alone, cannot provide the necessary disclosure to support an anticipation rejection for a cantilever sidewall portion.

With respect to claims 7 and 32, the Applicant submits that Powell fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a bead portion that includes a bead filler that extends into the cantilever portion of the sidewall. The Powell reference does not disclose any material related to the bead filler.

With respect to claim 9, the Applicant submits that Powell does not disclose a bead filler having an axially-disposed outer end disposed adjacent the radially-disposed inner end of the sidewall insert.

With respect to claim 17, the Applicant submits that Powell fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a bead portion having a bead filler with the bead filler being disposed between the first and second body plies in the cantilever portion of the sidewall. The Examiner contends that the second carcass ply of Powell would be expected to have the same arrangement as the first carcass ply such that the bead filler would be between the first and second body plies. The Examiner contends that claim 17 is unclear because the position of the bead filler is not defined as being between the main portions of the first and second carcass plies as opposed to being broadly between the first and second plies including the turn up portion of the plies. The Applicant submits that the claim language requires the bead filler to be disposed between the plies in the cantilever portion as depicted in Fig. 4 of Applicant's specification without reference to the turn up portion of the plies. Regardless, the Powell reference fails to disclose the position of the bead filler and thus does not anticipate independent claim 17.

The remaining claims pending in the application dependent from allowable independent claims and are thus allowable based on the limitations found in the independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal notice of

allowability for the claims. Please call the undersigned attorney if any questions remain after this amendment.

Respectfully submitted at Canton, Ohio this 19th day of February, 2004.

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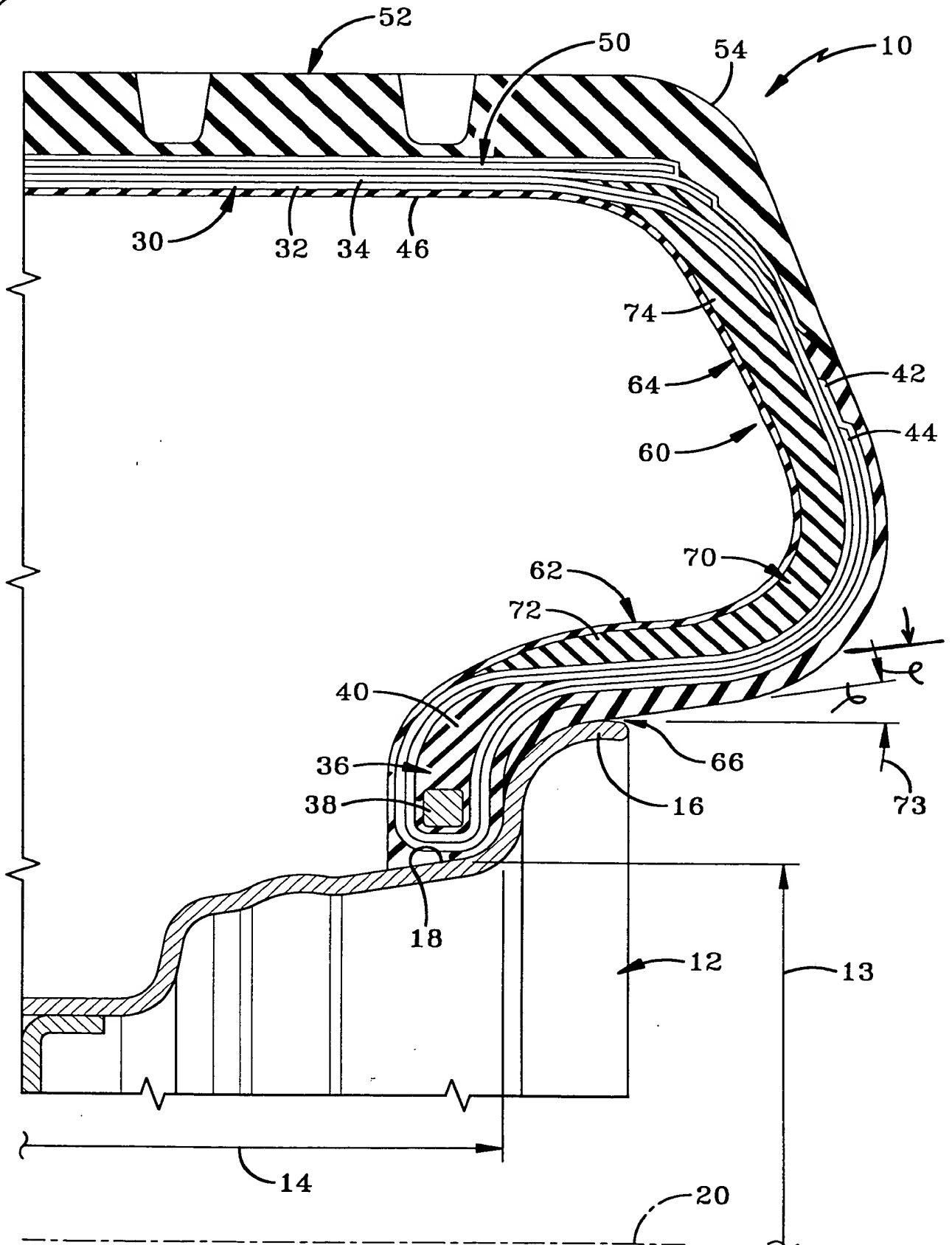
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Karina A. Butler

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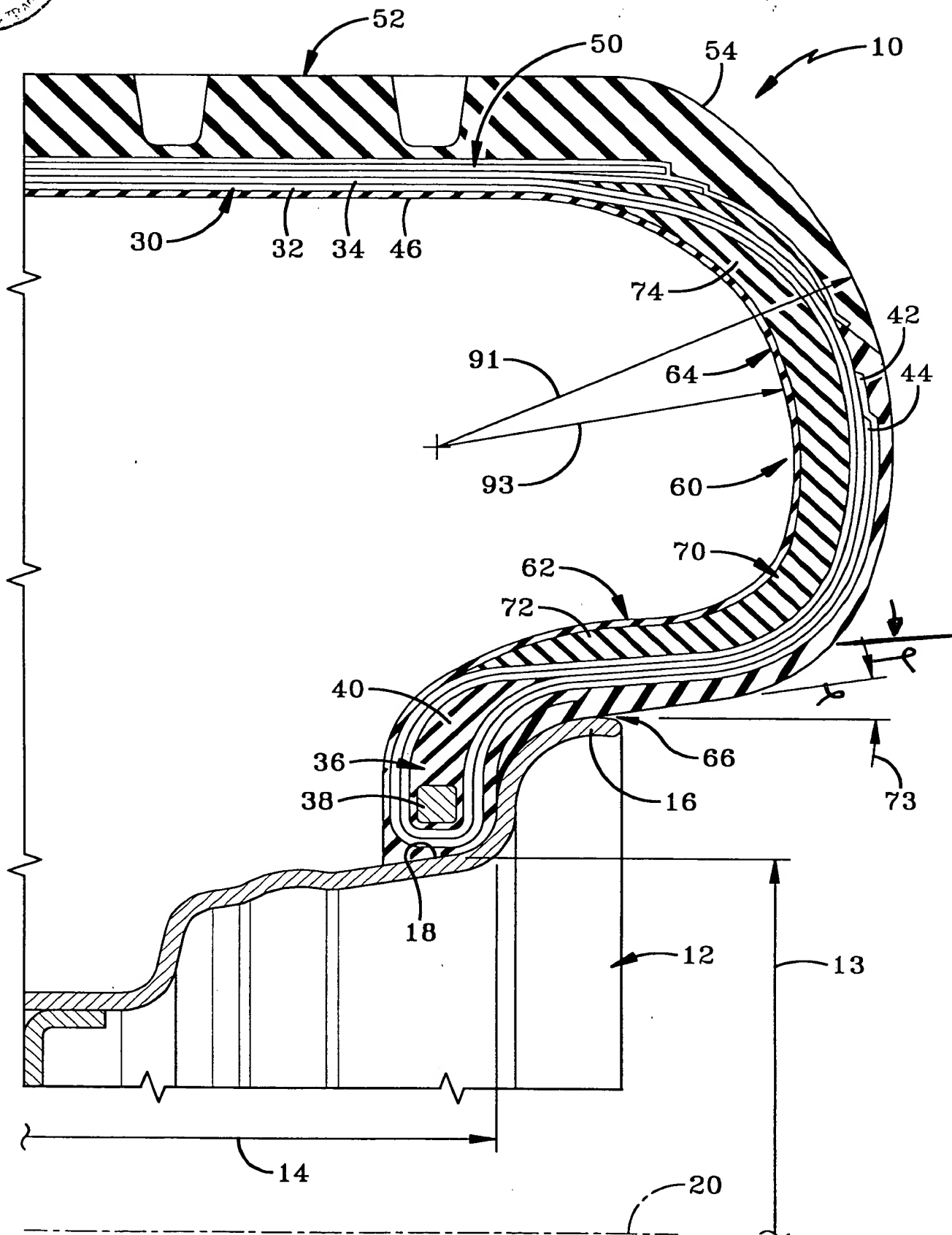


FIG-7 Proposed Revision